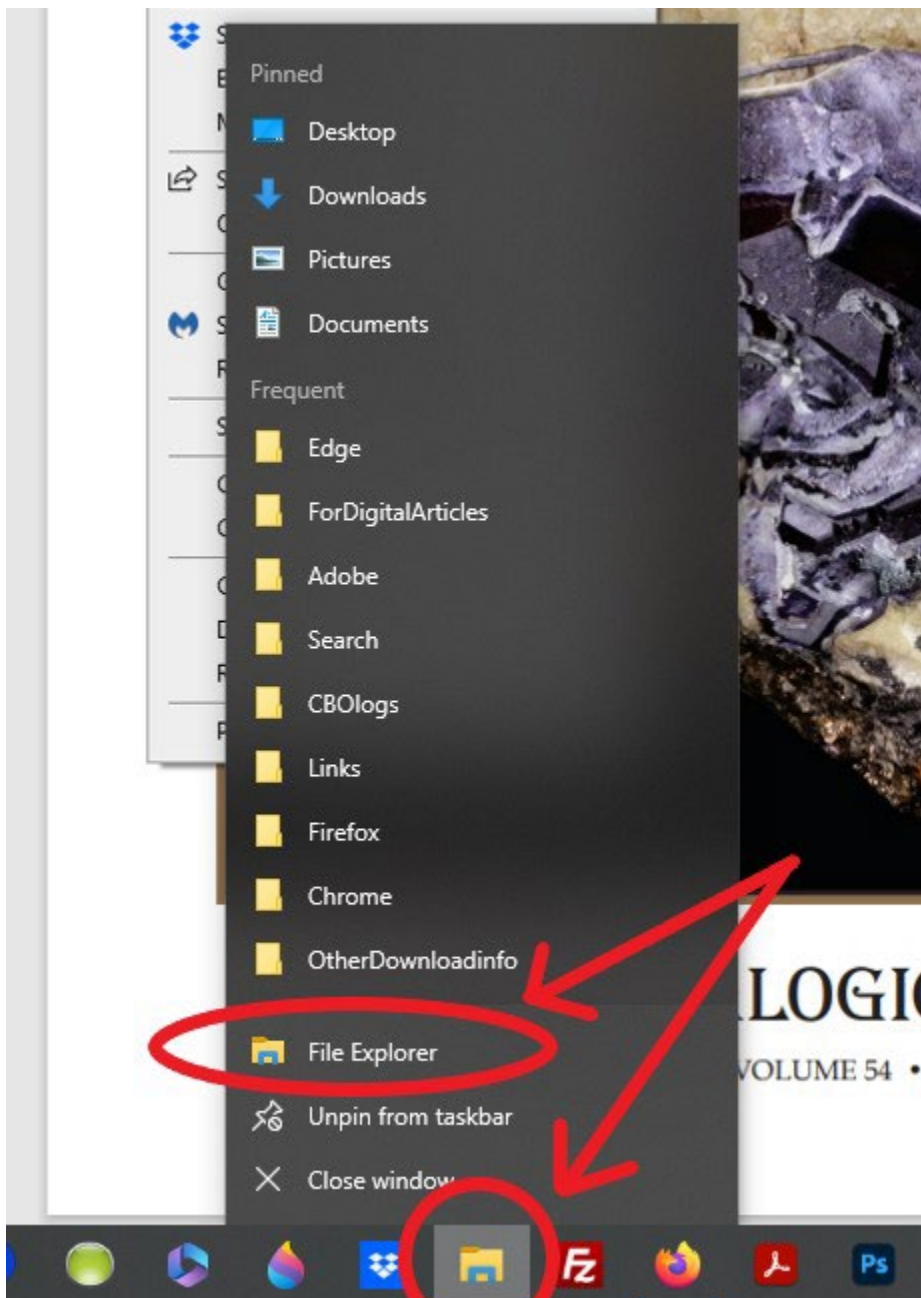


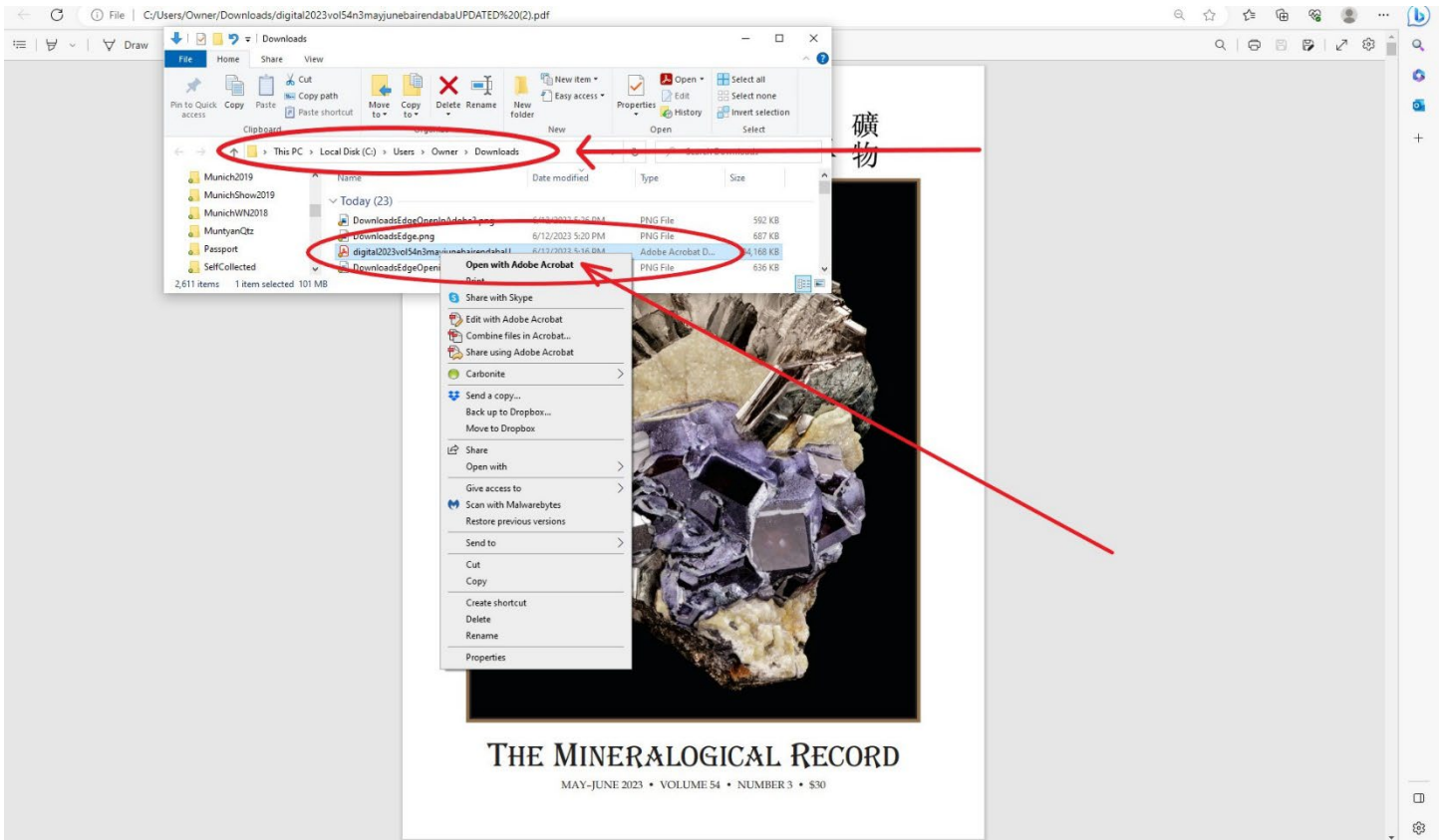
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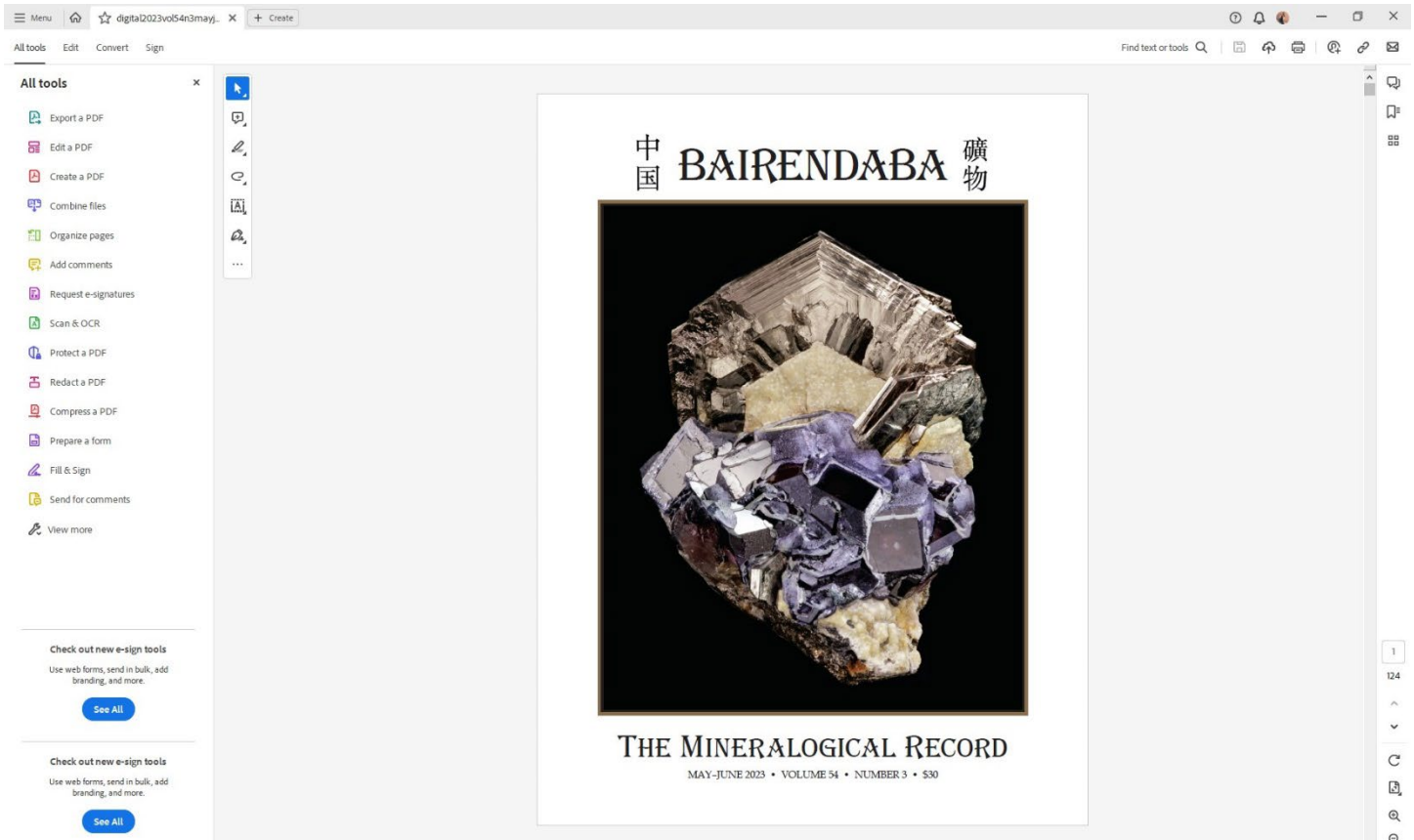
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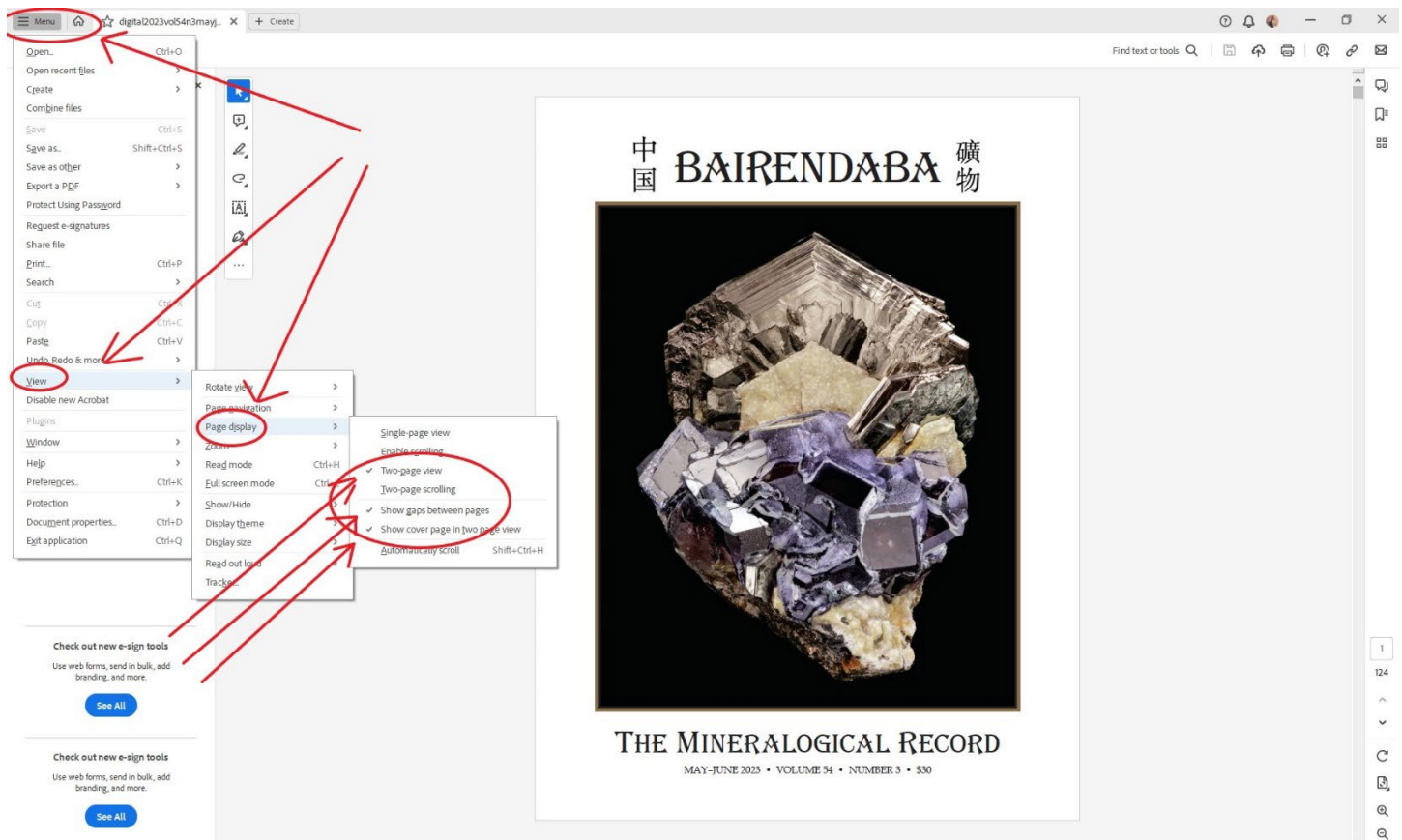
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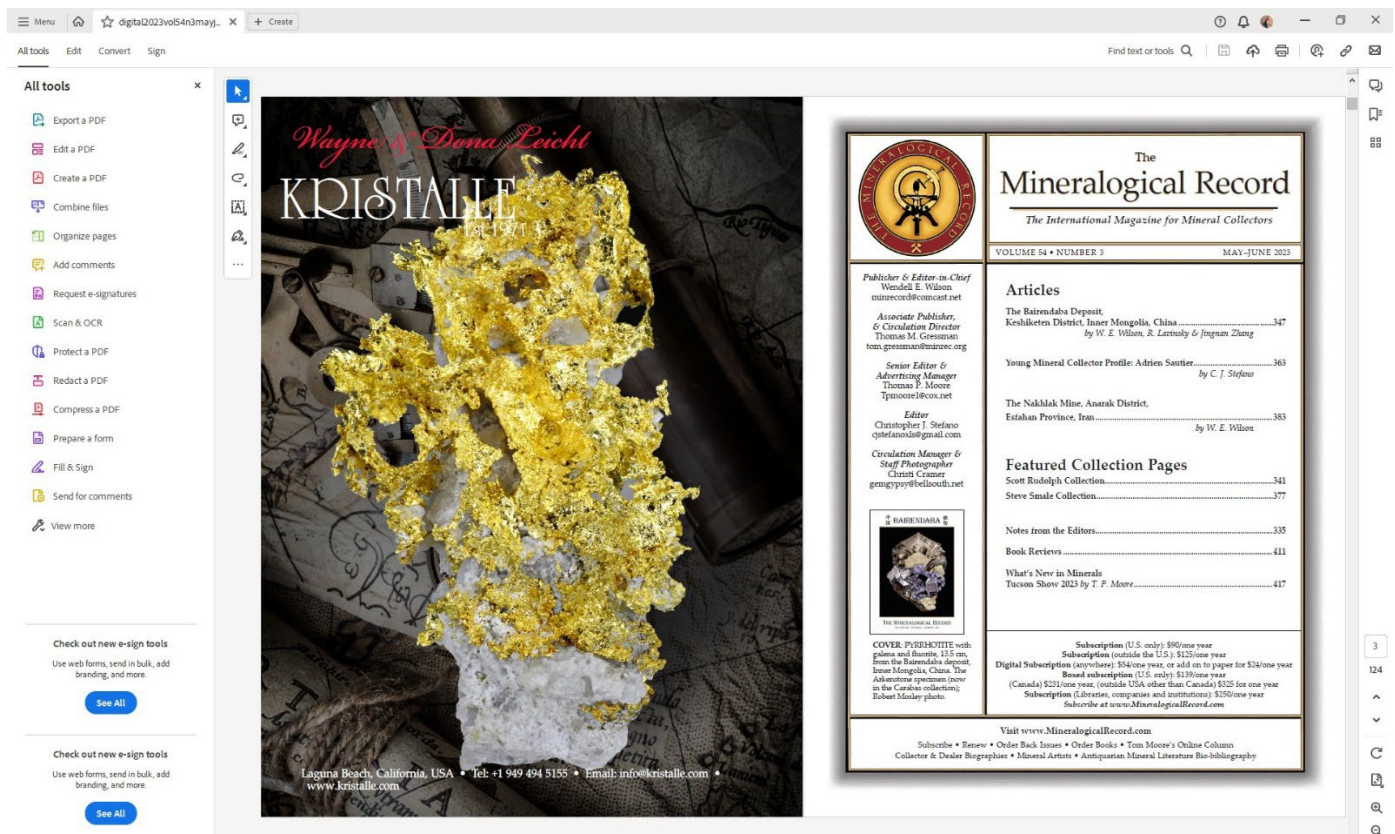
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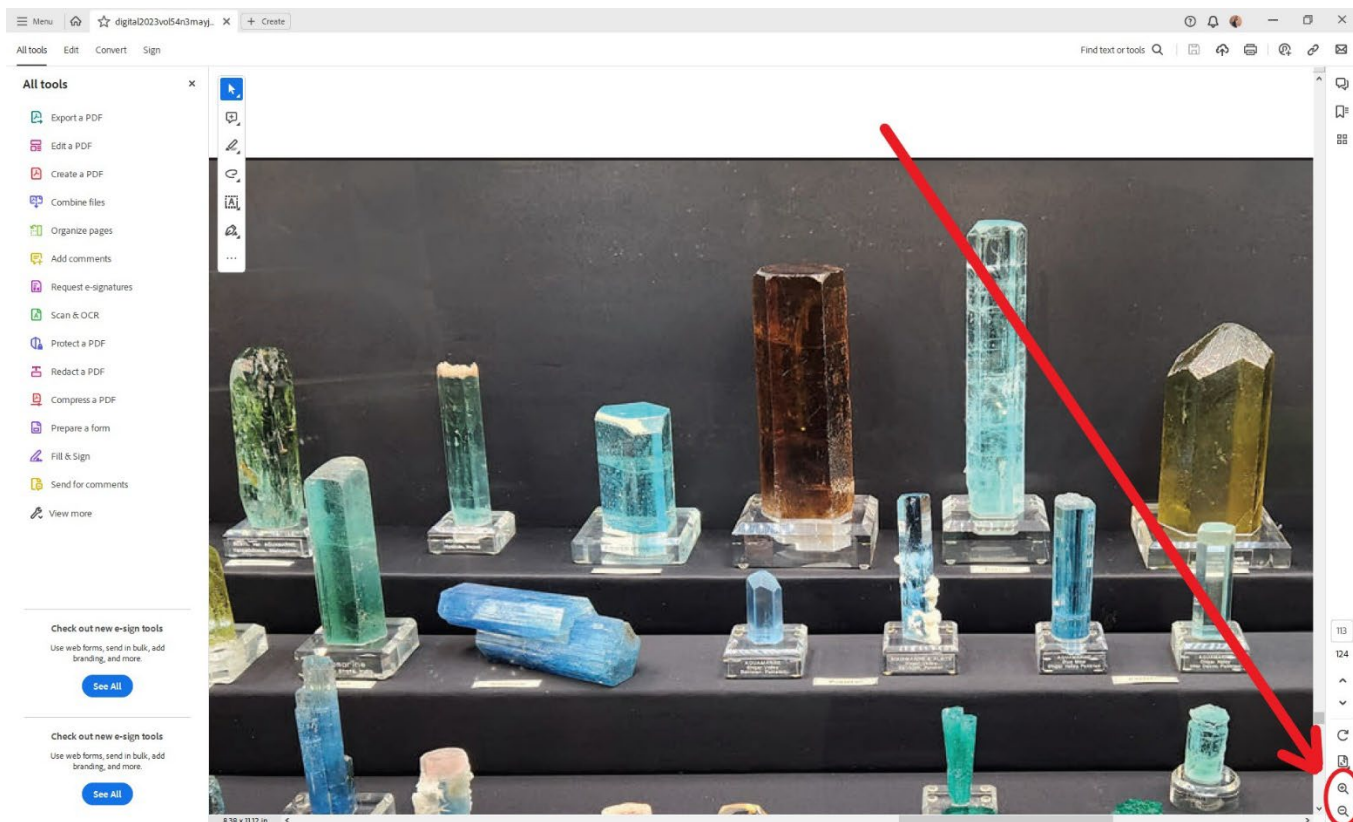
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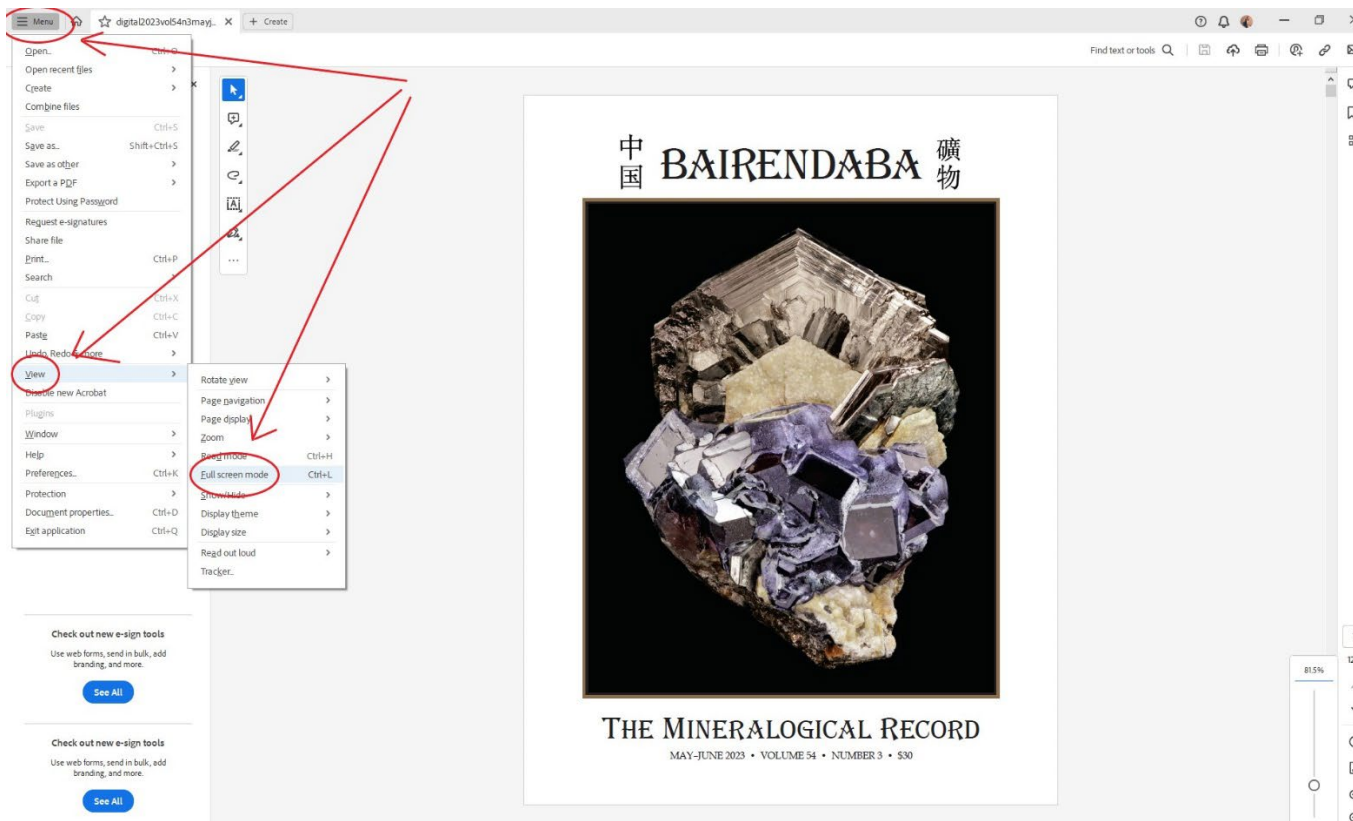
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The image shows a screenshot of the Adobe Acrobat Reader interface. A red arrow points from the top-left corner to the 'Menu' button. Another red arrow points from the 'Menu' button to the 'View' option in the dropdown menu. A third red arrow points from the 'View' option to the 'Read out loud' option in the 'View' submenu. The main content area displays a document with a portrait of Frank Perham and several columns of text. A small image of a mineral specimen is visible on the right side of the document. The bottom of the screen shows the Adobe logo and some navigation icons.

short of his 92nd birthday. His collection ultimately numbered about 376 carefully chosen, consistent-level specimens, including many of historical interest. He famously opened the "Kepler Amulet," a magnificent gemstone specimen originally collected by Thomas mineralogist Frederick Wilhelm Kepl (1774-1846). Many of his specimens were illustrated in the July-August 2016 *Mineralogical Record* supplement on *Minerals: Collections of the American Northwest*, and also in John White's article on "William Perham and his mineral collection" in the July-June 2020 issue of *Rock & Mineral*.



Frank Perham (1934-2023).

graduated from the I-Corps Non-commissioned Officer Academy there. After returning to Bates College he was a member of the Joshua-Russell Scientific Society and graduated with a B.S. degree in Geology in 1959, the same year his daughter was born. He was employed in his family's business for a couple of years, then for the next two decades he mined commercially for pegmatite minerals in the Orchard Hills area while also working as a drilling and blasting contractor for the State of Maine.

Frank loved minerals, and he also enjoyed competing in stock car races in the late 1960s and early 1970s, and served on the Board of Trustees of the Stephen Memorial Hospital.

In 1972, Frank took part in mining one of the greatest tourmaline discoveries in the history of Maine pegmatite mining. The exciting story of the discovery at the Dunton mine in Newry was written up in the *Mineralogical Record* (vol. 6, no. 1, 1975).

In 1973 Frank opened his own mine repair shop, the Route 219 Garage in West Paris, and ran an adjacent junk yard. He was always happy to give lectures over the years describing his mining adventures, and he served various mining properties which he fondly opened to the public for collecting. The mineral *perhamite* was named in his honor by Pete Dunn and Daniel Appleman in 1977.

Frank continued mining and making discoveries well into his 80s. In 2015 he sold his extensive collection of 1,280 specimens of Maine pegmatite minerals to the Maine Mineral and Gem Museum in Bethel (located further up Route 16 from the former Perham store at West Paris). Soon afterward he refilled his display cases with specimens from a storage unit and from new finds.

Frank Perham died on January 31, 2023, at the age of 88. His close friend, Woodrow Thompson, adds the following notes about Frank:

**Minerals of Frank Perham**  
Frank was a devoted speaker at the Maine Mineral Symposium and the New England Mineral Conferences. The halls erupted as people came to hear his vivid memories of a lifetime in pegmatite mining. No matter what the planned topic was, Frank eventually came around to the thrill of opening the famous gem tourmaline pocket at the Dunton mine in Newry. He told this story many times, but always with colorful enthusiasm and new details that had not been heard before.

I recall one of Frank's stories that exemplifies his subtle Orchard Hills humor. He told about working high on the crest of Plumbago Mountain in Newry, where rose quartz crystals and mineral collectors especially approached that local-legendary (though not the steep rocky north face of Plumbago Peak, Frank managed to drive up there from the north side. He had his Jeep and compressor on a rough forest road, and set a compass. One day he was fixing a trail when he heard a commotion of tree collectors approaching the mountain.

"They finally dragged out of the woods only to come upon a hunk who cheerfully asked, "Would you like a cup of coffee?" hunk was nicknamed "The Pocket Fairy" for always showing up at a mine when a pocket had either just been found or was about to be discovered. The miners took it as a good omen when Frank came to visit.

He could remember details of virtually every crystal pocket he had seen. Louise Thompson showed him a ring with a faceted tourmaline that had recently been mined by Gary Freeman at Mount Meru. The stone had no natural blue color, and she was hoping to learn more about it. Frank instantly recognized the color and remarked on which of Gary's numbered pockets it had come from.

Woodrow Thompson, 8 February 2023

Another personal description of Frank was provided back in 1975 by Southwestern mineralogist Peter J. Dunn in the *Mineralogical Record* (vol. 6, no. 3), reprinted below in full:

**Frank Perham: Pegmatite miner, geologist and humorist**

Few names are as intimately associated with the pegmatite belt of Maine than that of the Perhams. Frank's grandfather, Alfred, was a famous mineralogist, and Frank's father was the well-known Stan Perham. Stan made his mark as a tourmaline find at the B.D. #7 mine in north Newry, Maine, and came to fame as the "mineral man at Top Center" in West Paris, Maine, where he operated a mineral shop until his passing on December 1, 1973. The shop is now operated by his daughter, Jane Perham Swenson, and his widow, Hazel Perham. (Frank died in 1991; the shop was finally closed by Jane in 2009, and was reopened by Steve Lightfoot in 2021 as a mineral store and museum called Lightfoot's of West Paris.)

Frank Perham is a man well-versed. A geologist with more practical field knowledge of pegmatites than most, he is also a dedicated pegmatite miner, a crack diesel engine mechanic, and a prospector of a very, indeed, humorist who hobbles frequently in his conversations. Following in the footsteps of his father, Frank obtained a geology degree from Bates College in Maine, and proceeded to learn Maine's pegmatites by mining them. He has, over the years, mined commercial-grade beryl, muscovite and beryl at the Waisanen, Noble, and Dunton mines, and the Newry Hill area, as well as maintaining a small drilling and blasting operation for ledge rock and cement removal. These operations provided the experience and equipment for his main love, the mining of gem-bearing pegmatites.

Considering that the mining of gems is primarily a labor of love on Frank's part, his successes have yielded mighty significant rewards. Some of the gems in Maine where Frank has worked for mineral specimens and gem materials include the Harvard mine for purple spessart, Plumbago mountain for rose quartz crystals, Mount Meru for tourmaline, the Keith and Puffer quarries on Mt. Agate for tourmaline and purple spessart, the Consolidated Mining quarry in Georgetown for gem spessart and tourmaline, the Waspington Pass mine for finest-grade rose quartz, and the Waisanen mine for smoky quartz crystals, hematite crystals, and tourmaline.

Undoubtedly, one of Frank's greatest faults was the mining of record amounts of gem-quality white tourmaline at the Dunton gem mine in 1972, 1973 and 1974. Frank's description of the recovery of this gem material is one of the most fascinating and captivating experiences I have ever heard. The human side of Frank is ever-present, and he affectionately recalls the day in September of 1972 when his father was brought to the top of Newry Hill to see the gem always being brought out of the pocket. Tourmaline had always been a part of the day-oped Stan Perham's life, and Frank wanted him to share in the thrill of this notable discovery. Frank's mining efforts have now come full-ering, and he is back at Mount Meru and Newry, mining for the Plumbago Mining Corporation, the discoverers of the 1972 tourmaline fields.

To watch Frank work a pegmatite with respected pockets, and find the pockets and remove the contents with a minimum of damage is akin to observing an expert surgeon in a complex operation. With a fine touch for drilling and blasting, perfected by years of experience, Frank is eminently well-suited to the challenge: any pegmatite can offer. He has a remarkable three-dimensional memory which enables him to remember the size, content, and position-in-space of pockets found in



Perhamite, 2.8 carats, from the Farnham quarry, Uncle Tom Mountain, Greenwood, Oxford County, Maine. Raymond Sprague photo. (Named in honor of Frank Crockett Perham, geologist and pegmatite miner of West Paris, Maine, in honor of his dedicated labor in the recovery of mineral specimens.)

the part, and he utilizes this knowledge in the search for more pockets and seams of pegmatite minerals. One is most impressed by Frank Perham in the "breaks" between drilling efforts, when the noise has ceased and the dust settled, and Frank begins to explore, over a cup of hot soup, what he is doing that day. It is at this time that the listener comes to realize that this humble and self-effacing man is indeed the complete geologist, who is daily blending theoretical and practical knowledge in the search for pegmatite minerals. On a recent visit to the site of Frank's efforts, I had the good fortune to arrive just before lunchtime, known to Frank as the "wobble hour." We were invited to join him while he is in a converted bus-cum-camp which he built to the site of his mining for creative comfort (dual seats and one table). We were informed, ever so seriously, that we were dining in what Frank calls the "Mount Meru Kitchen." Frank's narratives include colorful (and off-color) descriptions of some of his finds. Most of his narratives are quite unique, such as "legible crystals, stacked up like a pile of Meru wafers," and other even more eloquent efforts.

In summary, Frank Perham combines the talents of a geologist and pegmatite miner with the warmth and good-natured humor of an honest Maine man. Many of Maine's treasures have been borne into our consciousness through his hands, and more will certainly come in the years ahead. He represents the best in the mineral men of Maine.

For more on the life of Frank Perham see Frank C. Perham: Adventures in Maine Pegmatite Mining (2014) by Kevin Wadlow and Raymond Sprague. A new edition with Skip Summons as a coauthor will come out shortly.

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